Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 23 Jan 2021 until 23:59 on Sunday 24 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Saturday 23 Jan 2021 at 03:11

Confidence: High for cold, showery conditions continuing through into next week and then becoming milder during Tuesday, although timings of this uncertain at the moment.

Headline for Saturday 23 Jan 2021: Sunny spells and, especially in west, occasional snow showers. Cold

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 23 Jan 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Light snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability					
30%	40%	40%	40%	30%	30%

Forecast for Saturday 23 Jan 2021

Weather: Clear or sunny spells with occasional snow showers, the showers mainly across western fells where they may be heavy at times. Best of the sunshine across more eastern fells.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Around 25% over western fells but nearer 75% in east

Visibility: Periods of cloud above 600m expected in west but cloud more occasional in east. Away from cloud, very good or excellent with good panoramic views of surrounding snow covered fells, falling to a kilometre or less at times in snow showers. Glare off lying snow expected, especially across eastern fells.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Forecast for Saturday 23 Jan 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	13/15 NW	16/18 NW	16/20 NW	21/26 NW	21/26 NW	19/23 W	17/21 SW
600	11/14 NW	11/15 NW	13/17 NW	16/22 NW	16/22 W	15/21 W	13/18 SW
300	5/13 NW	5/14 NW	6/15 NW	7/18 NW	6/18 NW	5/16 W	4/14 W
Valley	4/12 NW	4/14 NW	6/15 NW	6/17 NW	6/18 NW	6/16 W	3/11 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-10	-5/-12	-5/-12	-5/-14	-6/-14	-6/-14	-5/-13
600	-2/-8	-3/-8	-3/-9	-3/-9	-4/-10	-4/-10	-4/-10
300	-0/-3	-1/-4	0/-3	-0/-4	-1/-4	-2/-5	-2/-5
Valley	1/-1	1/-1	2/-0	2/-0	1/-2	1/-2	1/-2
Freezing Level*	200m	100m	200m	100m	100m	100m	100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Widespread valley frosts at first and again in evening, temperatures down to minus 2 or 3 Celsius.

Forecast for Sunday 24 Jan 2021

Weather: One or two mainly light snow showers but also some long clear or sunny spells.

Maximum wind: Westerly or southwesterly winds 10-15mph, but temperatures still low enough for a significant chill effect.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Around 90% in east but nearer 75% in west

Visibility: Occasional cloud above 600m in the west, but only small amounts of cloud below summits in the east. Away from cloud, very good or excellent with good panoramic views of surrounding snow covered fells, falling to just a few kilometres in snow showers. Glare off lying snow expected.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Falling to minus 4 or 5 Celsius overnight then rising briefly to plus 2 Celsius around midday.
At 800m: Around minus 5 Celsius
Freezing level: Below 300m.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 22 January 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12.10 Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. Yet again this week, today's report comes with a health warning in that currently Cumbria is under another Met Office Yellow warning for both snow and ice from 4pm on Friday until 10-30am on Saturday. Therefore anyone exercising locally in the fells on Saturday should expect, and be prepared to encounter, more snow and ice (especially at lower elevations) than experienced and described in the following report. Below 500m, there is a slow daytime thaw of the snow that has fallen over the past 48 hours with the main snowline now being around 400m. However, this snow now being wet/thawed combined with an overnight valley frost tonight will create hard snow/ice below 500m on Saturday. Above 400m snow depth rises with altitude. It has been accompanied with strong predominantly W winds so the depth varies considerably from little on windswept areas (such as large parts of the summit plateau) to deep drifts of over one meter (although such depth is the exception) with 40-50cm drifts being relatively commonplace in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly SE to NE facing aspects. The fresh snow is soft powder and continues to be redistributed. Above 800m, again mainly on SE to NE facing aspects, the fresh snow can lie above neve (hard snow) with the 2 layers not bonding. This combined with windslab in the same areas has created unstable conditions which should be avoided. There are cornices above N and E facing slopes. Although they are small, they are also unstable so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. With a summit windchill around midday of minus 13 degrees C, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Although the snowpack is currently mainly soft, for those venturing above the snowline an ice axe and crampons are essential. This is due to the older hard snow and ice that can be encountered and this is not limited to the more exposed routes, such as Striding and Swirral Edges. On the so called "easy" route up Helvellyn from Thirlmere there was a large area of unavoidable, steep, hard icy snow where a slip without the means to stop yourself quickly could have serious consequences. Owing to the amount of spindrift and hail being blown about, goggles are highly recommended. For thinner ice on paths, microspikes and poles are extremely useful. Trudging through soft snow saps the energy and, in addition, deep snow obscuring landmarks, combined with low cloud demands excellent navigational skills (especially near steep drops) so please be conservative with your plans for

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Saturday and know your limits. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. Temperature: minus 2.9 C, Maximum wind speed 28.3mph, Wind chill: minus 13.3 C, Average wind speed: 24.0 mph.

Issued at: 03:11 on Sat 23 Jan 2021

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